

REMARKS***Summary of the Amendment***

Upon entry and consideration of the instant amendment, the specification and claims 13-15, 17, 22, 24 and 25 will have been amended and claims 29-37 will have been added. Accordingly, claims 13-37 will be pending and under consideration.

Summary of the Official Action

In the instant Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because of reference to claim numbers. The Examiner also objected to claims 14, 22 and 24-25 as containing informalities. The Examiner also rejected claims 13-28 as being indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 13-28 over the applied art of record. By the present remarks, Applicant submits that the objections and rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

Interview of December 16, 2008

Applicant appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Bellinger in the Interview of December 16, 2008.

In the Interview, Applicant's representative explained how the invention differs from that of the applied documents. In particular, it was pointed out that GB '784 lacks the deformable projections 33-36 as shown in Fig. 2 of the instant application.

The Examiner agreed that Fig. 2 shows a different ring than that of GB '784 and that GB '784 does not appear to describe the ring in an uninstalled state. The Examiner explained, however, that under a broad interpretation standard, he can interpret the ring in GB '784 as having grooves and

deformable projections as claimed and that the claims do not claim certain features shown in Fig. 2 of the instant application. The Examiner also explained that arguments relating to how the ring is used are not limiting as they do not structurally define the invention.

The Examiner did, however, agree to reconsider the prior art rejections after the claims are amended to recite features of the ring shown in Fig. 2 of the instant application are alleged by Applicant to be missing in the applied documents.

The Specification Objection, is Moot

The Examiner objects to the specification as referencing claims by number.

By this Amendment, Applicant has herein amended the specification in a manner which is believed to resolve this basis of objection.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw this basis of objection.

The Claim Objection, is Moot

The Examiner objects to the claims for asserted informalities.

By this Amendment, Applicant has herein amended each of the noted claims in a manner which is believed to resolve this basis of objection.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw this basis of objection.

The Section 112, 2nd Paragraph, Rejection, is Moot

The Examiner rejects claims 13-28 as being indefinite with regard to certain features alleged to render these claims unclear.

By this Amendment, Applicant has herein amended each of the noted claims in a manner

which is believed to resolve this basis of rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Traversal of Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 13-17, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 787,784.

In the rejection, the Examiner asserted that GB '784 discloses all the recited features of these claims, including the recited deformable sealing elements. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is improper because GB '784 fails to disclose, or even suggest: inter alia, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in amended independent claim 13.

While Applicant acknowledges that the figure of GB '784 shows a tire 4 and a sealing ring 5 having annular limbs 7 with grooves 8, Applicant submits GB '784 only shows what the ring 5 looks like in an installed state and with the tire under pressure. Thus, it is not apparent that GB '784 teaches or suggests the recited deformable sealing elements, much less, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in claim 13.

Applicant notes, for example, that the radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb 7 is just as likely to be defined by the free ends of the limb portions arranged between the grooves 8

so as to preclude them from projecting from this surface as in Fig. 2 of Applicant's application.

For the foregoing reasons and because this document fails to disclose the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicant submits that this document fails to disclose each and every recited feature of claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and that the instant rejection is improper.

Finally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 14-17, 25 and 26 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from an allowable base claim and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper reading GB '784 discloses or suggests; that the deformable sealing elements are configured radially outside the central annular body and project by a same amount from the radially inwardly pointing surface of the annular limb as recited in claim 14; that the deformable sealing elements are sealing lips having rounded free ends as recited in claim 15; that the sealing elements are a plurality of sealing lips distributed in a radial direction and oriented in the circumferential direction as recited in claim 16; that the sealing lips extend away from the annular limb substantially perpendicularly with respect to a surface of the annular limb as recited in claim 17; that the deformable sealing elements are sealing lips oriented in the circumferential direction such that in the un-installed state, free ends of the deformable sealing elements define different diameters as recited in claim 25; and that the sealing elements are three to six sealing lips extending over the entire circumference of the sealing ring as recited in claim 26.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and further requests that the above noted claims be indicated as allowable.

*Traversal of Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103*Over GB '784 alone

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '784 alone.

In the rejection, the Examiner acknowledges that the features of these claims are lacking but submits that such features are obvious. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is improper because no proper modification of GB '784 discloses or suggests: inter alia, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in amended independent claim 13.

As explained above, while Applicant acknowledges that the figure of GB '784 shows a tire 4 and a sealing ring 5 having annular limbs 7 with grooves 8, Applicant submits GB '784 only shows what the ring 5 looks like in an installed state and with the tire under pressure. Thus, it is not apparent that GB '784 teaches or suggests the recited deformable sealing elements, much less, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in claim 13.

Applicant again notes, for example, that the radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb 7 is just as likely to be defined by the free ends of the limb portions arranged between the grooves 8 so as to preclude them from projecting from this surface as in Fig. 2 of Applicant's application.

For the foregoing reasons and because each of these documents fails to disclose the above-

noted features of the instant invention, Applicant submits that no proper modification of this document disclose or suggests each and every recited feature of claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of unpatenability under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that the instant rejection is improper.

Finally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 22 and 23 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from an allowable base claim and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper reading GB '784 discloses or suggests; that an axial spacing between axial outer sides of the annular limbs in a first radial position which corresponds to a radial position of radially inner ends of the annular limbs is smaller than an axial bead spacing (t_1) of the tire beads in a mounted operating state on the rim in the first radial position, an axial spacing between the axial outer sides of the annular limbs in a second radial position which corresponds to a radial position of the radially outer ends of the annular limbs is greater than an axial bead spacing (t_2) of the tire beads in the mounted operating state on the rim in the second radial position, and an axial spacing between the axial outer sides of the annular limbs in a region of the sealing elements is greater than an axial bead spacing (t_1) of the tire beads in the mounted operating state on the rim in the first radial position as recited in claim 22; and that the axial spacing between the axial outer sides of the annular limbs in a region at least of the radially outer sealing elements which are configured on the annular limbs is greater than a respective axial bead spacing of the tire beads in the mounted operating state on the rim in the radial position as recited in claim 23.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and further requests that the above noted claims be indicated as allowable.

Over GB '784 with Veux

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 18, 19, 21, 24 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '784 in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,104,300 to VEUX et al.

In the rejection, the Examiner asserted that GB '784 in view of VEUX discloses all the recited features of these claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is improper because no proper combination of GB '784 and VEUX discloses or suggests: inter alia, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in amended independent claim 13.

As explained above, while Applicant acknowledges that the figure of GB '784 shows a tire 4 and a sealing ring 5 having annular limbs 7 with grooves 8, Applicant submits GB '784 only shows what the ring 5 looks like in an installed state and with the tire under pressure. Thus, it is not apparent that GB '784 teaches or suggests the recited deformable sealing elements, much less, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in claim 13. Applicant again notes, for example, that the radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb 7 is just as likely to be defined by the free ends of the limb portions arranged between the grooves 8 so as to preclude them from projecting from this surface as in Fig. 2 of Applicant's application.

VEUX does not cure the deficiencies of GB '784. The ring shown in Fig. 2 of VEUX, for example, shows no deformable elements arranged on rim facing surface of members 26 and 28-31. As such, VEUX, like GB '784, fails to teach or suggest the recited deformable sealing elements,

much less, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in claim 13.

For the foregoing reasons and because each of these documents fails to disclose the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicant submits that no proper combination of these documents disclose or suggests each and every recited feature of claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of unpatenability under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that the instant rejection is improper.

Finally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 18, 19, 21, 24, 27 and 28 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from an allowable base claim and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper combination of GB '784 and VEUX discloses or suggests; that the sealing ring further comprises a reinforcing member structured to reinforce an annular body formed on the central annular body between the annular limbs as recited in claim 18; that the reinforcement member is one or more radial elevations configured on the radial outer side of the annular body as recited in claim 19; that the sealing ring further comprises a reinforcing rib oriented in the circumferential direction as recited in claim 21; that the difference of the axial spacing between the axial outer sides of the two limbs minus the axial bead spacing of the tire beads in the mounted operating state in the respectively assigned radial position decreases in the radial direction from one sealing element to the next sealing element as recited in claim 24; that the reinforcing rib extends over the entire circumference of the annular body and configured on the radial outer side of the central annular body between the annular limbs as recited in claim 27; that the axial spacing between the axial outer sides of the annular limbs in the region of all the sealing elements which are configured on the annular

limbs is greater than a respective axial bead spacing of the tire beads in the mounted operating state on the rim in the radial position as recited in claim 28.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and further requests that the above noted claims be indicated as allowable.

Over GB '784 with Veux and Medynski

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '784 in view of VEUX and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,621,021 to MEDYNSKI.

In the rejection, the Examiner asserted that GB '784 in view of VEUX and MEDYNSKI discloses all the recited features of these claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is improper because no proper combination of GB '784, VEUX and MEDYNSKI discloses or suggests: inter alia, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in amended independent claim 13.

As explained above, while Applicant acknowledges that the figure of GB '784 shows a tire 4 and a sealing ring 5 having annular limbs 7 with grooves 8, Applicant submits GB '784 only shows what the ring 5 looks like in an installed state and with the tire under pressure. Thus, it is not apparent that GB '784 teaches or suggests the recited deformable sealing elements, much less, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in claim 13. Applicant again notes, for example, that the radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb 7 is just as likely to be defined by the free

ends of the limb portions arranged between the grooves 8 so as to preclude them from projecting from this surface as in Fig. 2 of Applicant's application.

VEUX does not cure the deficiencies of GB '784. The ring shown in Fig. 2 of VEUX, for example, shows no deformable elements arranged on rim facing surface of members 26 and 28-31. As such, VEUX, like GB '784, fails to teach or suggest the recited deformable sealing elements, much less, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in claim 13.

MEDYNSKI does not cure the deficiencies of GB '784 and VEUX. The ring shown in Fig. 3 of MEDYNSKI, for example, shows no deformable elements arranged on rim facing surface of members 10. As such, MEDYNSKI, like GB '784 and VEUX, fails to teach or suggest the recited deformable sealing elements, much less, that, when the sealing ring is in an un-installed state, the deformable sealing elements are arranged on and project from a radially inwardly pointing surface of each annular limb so as to extend over a circumference of the annular limb, as recited in claim 13.

For the foregoing reasons and because each of these documents fails to disclose the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicant submits that no proper combination of these documents disclose or suggests each and every recited feature of claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of unpatenability under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that the instant rejection is improper.

Finally, Applicant submits that dependent claim 20 is allowable at least for the reason that this claim depends from an allowable base claim and because this claim recites additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that no proper combination of GB '784, VEUX and MEDYNSKI discloses or suggests; that the sealing ring further comprises a

hollow space formed at least in one radial elevation as recited in claim 20.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection and further requests that the above noted claims be indicated as allowable.

New Claims are also Allowable

Applicant submits that the new claims 29-37 are also allowable over the applied art of record. Specifically, claim 29 depends from a claim which is believed to be allowable and recites a combination of features which are clearly not disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record. Moreover, claims 30-37 recite a combination of features which are clearly not disclosed or suggested by the applied art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of these claims and further request that the above-noted claims be indicated as being allowable.

Application is Allowable

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102 and 103, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention.

Authorization to Charge Deposit Account

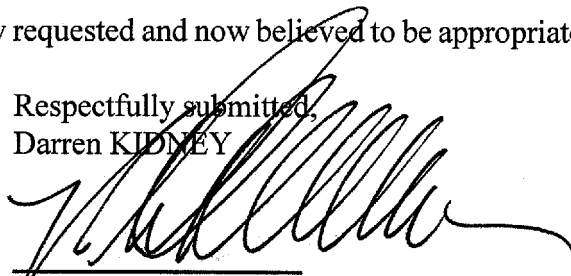
The Commissioner is authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any necessary fees, including any extensions of time fees required to place the application in condition for allowance by Examiner's Amendment, in order to maintain pendency of this application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicant's invention, as recited in each of the pending claims. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
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